

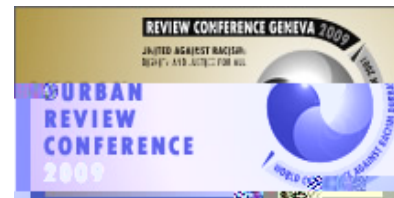


E– Bulletin for NGOs on the Durban Review Conference

This new series of E-bulletins is issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide regular updates and guidance for NGOs in the lead up to the Durban Review Conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009.

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In 2001, the United Nations organized the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. The conference was attended by more than 10,000 people from all regions of the world and led to the adoption by consensus of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which to date is the most important framework in the combat against racism and racial discrimination. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 61/49, decided to convene in 2009 a Review Conference on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and requested the Human Rights Council to undertake preparation for the Conference.

PREPARING FOR THE DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

Where to find relevant information

Extranet

Documents relating to the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory process, including the latest unofficial version of the Draft Outcome Document, may be found at the dedicated Extranet, which may be accessed at: <http://portal.ohchr.org>

username: **hrc durban**
password: **ohchr123**

Webpage

The dedicated webpage in all official UN languages is accessible through the OHCHR's main webpage, where official information and documentation regarding the Preparatory Committee, its Intersessional Open-ended Working Group, and the Durban Review Conference is available. This is accessible via: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/index.shtml>

Webcast

A Webcast service, containing the archives of past Preparatory Committee sessions, as well as live broadcast of the session in progress, is also available through: www.un.org/durbanreview2009/webcast

The Secretariat strongly encourages NGOs to regularly consult the relevant Durban Review Conference webpage, which will be updated as new information becomes available: www.un.org/durbanreview2009

Organization of side events during the Durban Review Conference

The Secretariat continues to encourage the broadest participation of all stakeholders in the Durban Review Conference and invites all accredited participants to the Conference to make use of the meeting rooms and public spaces that will be made available to organize side events, cultural events and exhibitions.

Events shall be held daily from 0900h-1800h from 20-24 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Organizers should consult the relevant Guidance Note and complete the relevant inscription form **no later than 14 April 2009**. The inscription forms and Guidance Notes may be accessed at the Durban Review Conference web site at: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/story11.shtml>.

Keeping in mind the goals and objectives of the Durban Review Conference, side events should focus on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. They should provide an opportunity to review progress made in the combat against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the actual implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels since 2001, as well as the sharing of best practices.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will compile and review all received requests to ensure the broadest participation of stakeholders and a diverse range of themes and issues relating to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. When organizing side events, organizers are encouraged to coordinate their efforts to avoid duplication of events. Where duplicate requests are received, the Secretariat shall endeavour to ensure a coordination of efforts and to encourage the co-sponsorship of

events. Where there is clear duplication, the Secretariat reserves the right to facilitate the holding of the event to that which is most closely associated to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Organizers shall only be afforded space should their proposal be clearly in line with these criteria. Should the request be confirmed, the Conference Secretariat shall be in contact with the organizers concerning the next steps to take including possible time slots, rooms and services available.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will also host side events relating to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Information on these side events is available on the Durban Review Conference website at: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009/story11.shtml>

(WCAR) are also automatically accredited *unless* questions were raised by Member States in the Review Conference Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) about their participation in the Review Process. These NGOs were asked to provide further information to the PrepCom, which then took a decision on their accreditation. The

Upon arrival, participants should proceed to the Pregny Gate of the Palais des Nations to complete the formalities to receive the badge. Participants are advised to ensure they have a valid identification document with them in order to facilitate issuing of the badge.

NGO attestations

Any questions regarding the attestations or registration process should be directed to ngodurbanrevconf@ohchr.org with ATTESTATIONS or REGISTRATION as the subject line and name of NGO.

Travel support for NGOs to attend the Durban Review Conference

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights invited applications from NGOs for travel support to attend the Durban Review Conference in Geneva. The response of NGOs seeking travel support has been over whelming. The applications received were reviewed in light of the **eligibility criteria which are summarized below:**

- **The NGO must be accredited to the Durban Review process.**
- **The NGO must represent victim groups identified in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).**
- **The NGO must be able to show how it has followed-up upon the implementation of the DDPA.**
- **Only applications which were fully completed were eligible.**

NGOs that fulfilled the above listed criteria have been informed by letter in February 2009 outlining further steps and actions involved to proceed with travel arrangements. NGOs which have not been contacted by the OHCHR fell short of fulfilling the eligibility criteria and their applications were declared unsuccessful. The OHCHR expresses its deep appreciation to all the NGOs for their interest in the travel support process to attend the Durban Review Conference. The OHCHR regrets that a number of applications were unsuccessful, however, hopes that such NGOs would continue to extend their support for the Durban Review process. A list of NGOs

Additional Information

1. OHCHR will provide updated information regarding room availability, IT support, additional information and NGO briefings in due course.

All queries should be addressed to the Durban Review Conference Secretariat:

Email: NGODurbanRevConf@ohchr.org

Fax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11

2. Next briefing by Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Coordinator of the Durban Review Conference, is scheduled for 20 March 2009 at 14:00 to 15:00 in Room XXI, Palais des Nations.

3. *Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme - A Handbook for Civil Society* has been released and is available online in Arabic and English languages:

For English: <http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/>

For Arabic: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/ngohandbook_ar.pdf